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FEBRUARY 11, 2014

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A Chicago Tribune publication

# JUST PRESS PAY

There's big money at stake on the virtual battlefield 6-7



## NFL BACKS GAY STAR

12-13

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**THIS MUCH IS TRUE****Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro**

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Discover whether truth really is stranger than fiction at this monthly show featuring real-life stories from The Second City's Joe Janes, 2nd Story's Molly Each, In Her Own Voice's Elynne Chaplik-Aleskow and others. 7:30 p.m. No cover.

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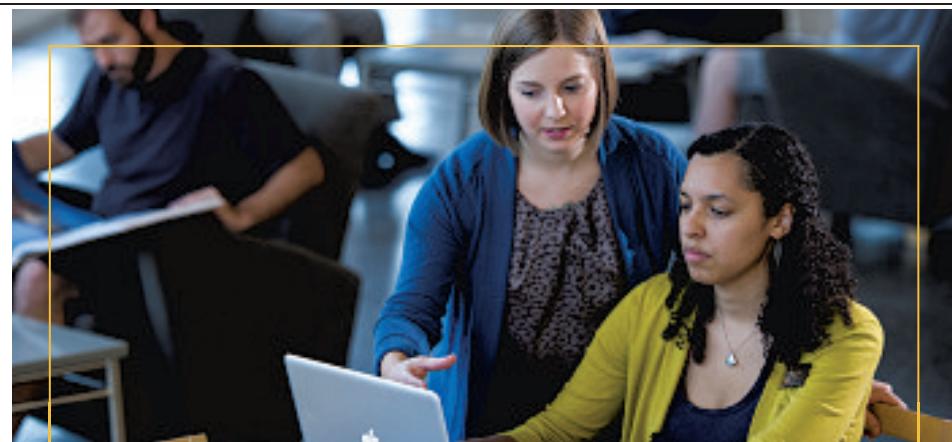
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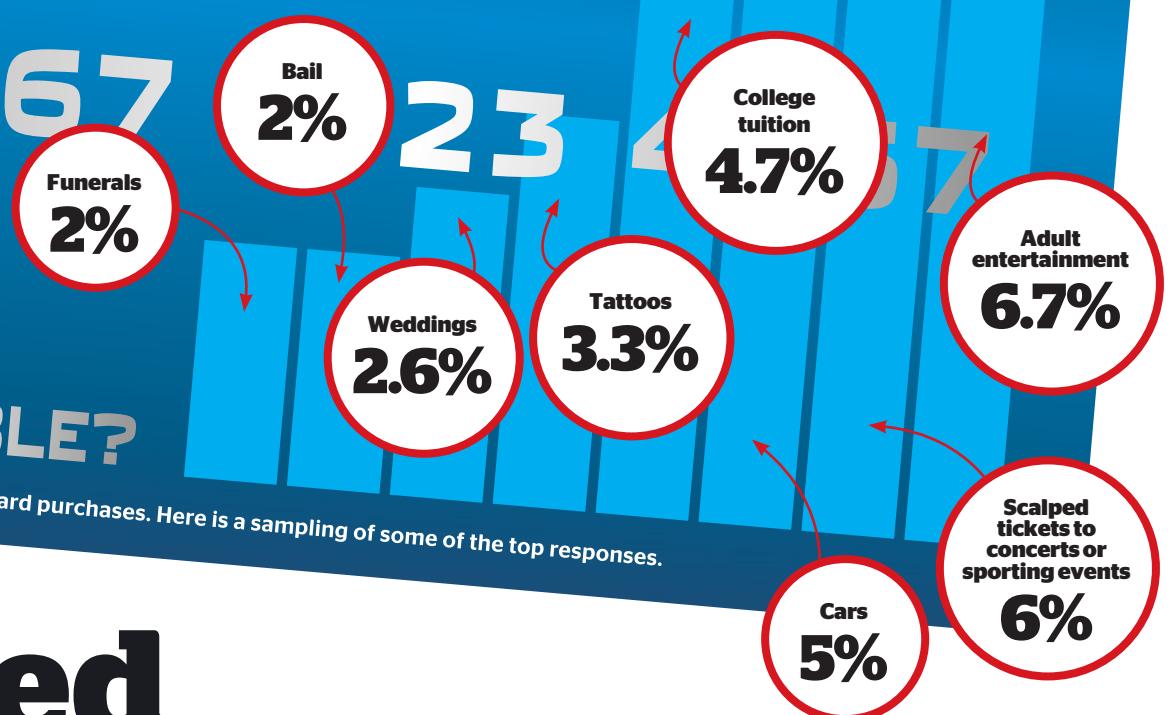
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## MR. IRRESPONSIBLE?

57 percent of Americans say they have made crazy credit card purchases. Here is a sampling of some of the top responses.



# You charged WHAT?!

**Use our credit cards unwisely? Yeah, most of us admit to doing it**

### Los Angeles Times

Americans flash plastic for the craziest things—to ink up their bodies, get out of jail or even watch X-rated movies.

Nearly six in 10 people admitted to making what they considered to be a crazy purchase

with their credit cards, according to survey results released Monday by [cardratings.com](http://cardratings.com).

Those purchases included the frivolous and the serious, such as paying for a wedding, funeral or college tuition.

The top responses from the 57 percent who said they made a crazy credit card purchase were adult entertainment (6.7 percent), scalped tickets to concerts or sporting events (6 percent), cars (5 percent) and college tuition (4.7 percent).

If you're tempted to use a credit card for a big-ticket item like a car, first do the math.

—Ellen Cannon, editorial director of [cardratings.com](http://cardratings.com)

Men were four times as likely as women to use a credit card for adult entertainment, according to the survey of 2,004 adults.

While using a credit card can be convenient, in many cases it doesn't make financial sense, said Ellen Cannon, editorial director of [cardratings.com](http://cardratings.com), a for-profit website that helps people compare credit card offers.

"If you're tempted to use a credit card for a big-ticket item like a car, first do the math: The average car loan rate is less than 5 percent

and the average credit card rate is around 15 percent," she said. "If you can't pay that credit card balance immediately, you shouldn't even think about using plastic."

Reward programs can make some credit card purchases less crazy, Cannon said.

"If a consumer pays off her credit card balance in full each month and has a great rewards program on the card, paying a college tuition bill can earn thousands of points," she said.

# Team bus or team 'L'?



## GOING PUBLIC

### Tracy Swartz

\* [tswartz@tribune.com](mailto:tswartz@tribune.com)  
\* [@tracyswartz](http://@tracyswartz)

The good news: CTA rail ridership grew 16.7 percent between 2008 and 2012.

The bad news: CTA bus ridership declined 4.2 percent during this time, according to a regional ridership report released last week by the Regional Transportation Authority, the funding arm for CTA, Metra and Pace.

All rail lines saw positive ridership growth over the five years. The Brown Line fared the best (39.4 percent), thanks to the completion of the \$530 million Brown Line capacity expansion project that included platform lengthening at most Brown Line stations and renovation to improve access for riders with disabilities.

The Purple Line fared the worst with only 1.6 percent ridership growth over five years. The Purple Line has not been very speedy during this time. About 30 percent of the line was under slow zone, where trains run 35 miles per hour or less, in January 2008. About 27 percent of the line was under slow zone in December 2012.

On the bus side, things were bleaker. Though buses that travel in Evanston saw the most ridership growth (14.7 percent), much of the bus dip was from a decrease in ridership on South Side routes. Buses that travel between

the North Side and downtown, buses that travel to Midway and buses that serve the Far Northwest Side also saw declines.

During the five-year period, the CTA eliminated 28 bus routes, including nine express bus routes in 2010, because of budget cuts. About 18 percent of bus service was eliminated and 9 percent of rail service was cut.

The report study period barely coincides with the complete or partial elimination of about a dozen routes in December 2012 as part of the CTA's decrowding plan to increase service on the most popular bus and rail routes—so bus ridership may take a hit in 2013 as well.

There are more bus boardings than rail boardings on a typical weekday, but when there are cuts, buses typically take the brunt. Still, there are a few bus projects on the horizon that may recapture ridership.

Construction on bus rapid transit, an express bus system that typically relies on bus-only lanes and traffic signal priority for buses, has long been expected to begin this year in the Loop. Under the city's plan, dedicated lanes on Washington, Clinton and Canal streets would shave minutes off of commute times for six bus routes.

The Chicago Department of Transportation and the CTA are also working on a plan to bring bus-only lanes to Ashland Avenue between 95th Street and Irving Park Road to increase bus speeds by up to 83 percent. The controversial plan, which would eliminate many left-turn options, is in the design phase.

## STATIONARY

A weekly dispatch from a CTA station of note

### This week: Chicago Red Line

A rider emailed a few weeks ago about whether a stand manned by Jehovah's Witnesses handing out religious materials is allowed at this station on the Near North Side. The CTA said because the stand is in the unpaid area of the station, before riders get to the turnstiles, it is allowed. "In general... materials can be distributed in the unpaid areas of stations as long as it does not obstruct or interfere with the ingress or egress of customers or take up space during peak times that would otherwise be occupied by paying customers," CTA spokeswoman Catherine Hosinski said in an email.

Next up: Oak Park Green Line



# AN ONION A DAY ...

## Chicago Tribune

Get Covered Illinois, the state's official Affordable Care Act outreach vehicle, has partnered with The Onion in a push to spur more young and healthy people to sign up for health insurance plans.

Under terms of the agreement, The Onion will run banner ads on its website featuring a man who is forced to sell his action figures to pay for his medical bills because he doesn't have health insurance. The Onion also will create a video, an editorial and a custom news section about Get Covered Illinois that will be featured online through March 31, the enrollment deadline.

The Onion is a division of Chicago-based Onion Inc. Its audience skews toward younger adults—particularly those between ages 21 and 34, a key segment of potential consumers targeted by the Obama administration.

In order to reach this younger, healthier group of consumers that comprise about 53 percent of the uninsured in Illinois, "we have to work with non-traditional, and especially digital, sources for news and entertainment," said Jennifer Koehler, Get Covered Illinois' executive director. The state will work with the company's creative agency Onion Labs to develop the content.

## THANKS FOR VOTING!



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# PAID TO PLAY

**A hobby for some, playing video games is a six-figure job for others**

## Chicago Tribune

Matt Haag used to be just another suburban kid going to high school, working at McDonald's and aggravating his parents by spending endless hours on his Xbox.

Today the lanky, dark-eyed 21-year-old is a global celebrity to an enormous number of young people. They call him Nadeshot, master of the virtual submachine gun, a guy who makes a six-figure living playing the video game "Call of Duty."

Haag is among a handful of Chicago-area men who have found a lucrative niche in the booming world of competitive video gaming. Under the name OpTic Gaming, they have snared corporate sponsors, built flourishing YouTube channels and earned a small fortune in tournament winnings.

When they play, tens of thousands of people watch. When they feud, their gamer

**“**Will [pro gaming] be on par with soccer? It's possible. It's going to be enormous, that's obvious.”

**—Patrick Howell O'Neill**, who covers eSports for the online publication The Daily Dot

handles incite some of the hottest trending on Twitter. Even Haag, a player so popular that fans pay \$4.99 a month just to watch him practice, doesn't fully understand it.

“What is it about me that people gravitate toward? I wish I knew,” he said between rounds of a recent online tournament. “I don't consider myself to be over-the-top entertaining or someone that would be a joy to be around 24/7, but it's working for me.”

The money and attention are signs that af-

ter decades of hype, “eSports” are finally putting a digital foot in the mainstream. Fans are packing sports arenas to watch top gamers battle for prize money. Major League Gaming, an organization that broadcasts matches online, saw consumption of its video more than triple last year, reaching 54 million hours.

One of those caught up in the culture was Hector Rodriguez, a 20-something gamer from Wheeling. He joined a few friends in online matches and got hooked on the strategy

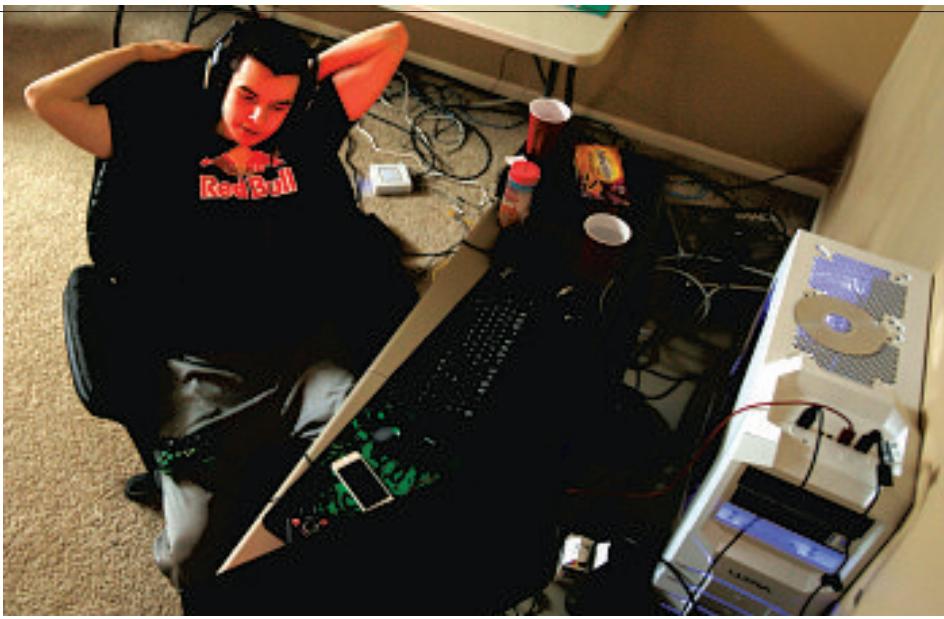
and teamwork demanded by the game.

But in 2009, he moved away from competition. Under the name of his team, OpTic Gaming, he put videos onto YouTube showing everything from “Call of Duty” strategies to tournament highlights to equipment reviews.

He quickly became aware of a ravenous appetite for content related to the game: One early effort, a montage of sniper kills accompanied by a rap and metal soundtrack, has attracted nearly 6 million views to date.

YouTube pays content creators a slice of the advertising revenue their videos bring in—and Rodriguez saw enough potential in the venture to quit his insurance job and devote himself full time to OpTic.

“For nine months, I didn't get paid a single dime, and I sacrificed more than ever,” said Rodriguez, now 33. “My girlfriend was 8 months pregnant when I decided to drop



Matt Haag stretches as he waits for his OpTic Gaming team to start a match. STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE

the news on her: 'Hey, I want to pursue this as a career. I really want to dedicate 100 percent of my time and effort to growing this potentially big opportunity.'

"And she said, 'Do it.'"

Rodriguez decided to extend awareness of the OpTic Gaming brand by forming a new competitive team. After asking around, he offered a spot to Haag, then a student at Stagg High School in Palos Hills.

Haag built his gaming chops playing various titles but switched his allegiance to "Call of Duty" in 2007 when his parents gave him the game for Christmas. Soon, he was winning a few hundred dollars at small competitions.

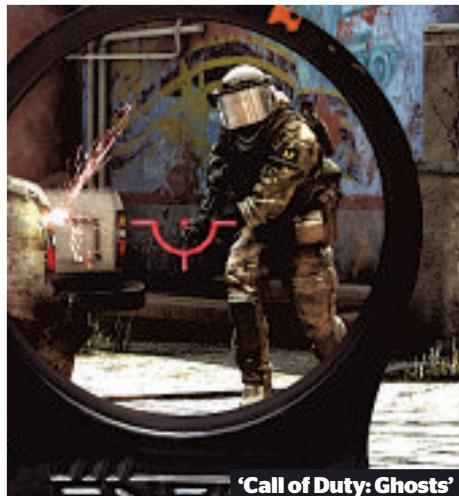
That changed after he joined OpTic. In 2011, a year after Haag graduated from Stagg, he and three teammates took first place in an L.A. competition put on by Activision, the publisher of "Call of Duty." Their prize was \$400,000.

It was a jaw-dropping amount of money for playing a video game, but Haag said he viewed the win as a freak occurrence, not something he could count on to make a living. So at Rodriguez's urging, he concentrated on building a fan base online.

"He explained how they were monetizing their content on YouTube, and they were making ad revenue every single month," Haag said. "It was a solid stream of income you could rely on every paycheck."

Haag pumped out videos, mixing game play lessons and tournament travelogues with reflections on heavy subjects such as death and religion. His audience was modest at first, but in mid-2013, after a year of good tournament results, the release of a new "Call of Duty" game and a move to the "OpTic House"—a home and practice space that team members share in the northwest suburbs—the numbers exploded. Today his channel has received more than 65 million views.

Haag found other income sources, too, from a sponsorship with Red Bull to a channel on **twitch.tv**, a website that lets fans watch their gaming idols practice and play for hours



'Call of Duty: Ghosts'

#### BIGGER THAN SOCCER?

In perhaps the clearest sign of a subculture that has broken through, gamers from other countries are getting U.S. visas designating them as "internationally recognized athletes." "Asia and South America have come into this thing more and more, and they're growing it in a way bigger way than North America," said Patrick Howell O'Neill, who covers eSports for the online publication The Daily Dot. "Will it be on par with soccer? It's possible. It's going to be enormous, that's obvious."

on end—gamers get a piece of the ad revenue and the \$4.99 monthly subscription fee that allows fans to comment on the action.

Add it up, and Haag said he made more than \$100,000 last year.

But with commercial success has come a legion of "Call of Duty" aficionados who regard Haag and his teammates as "money whores," more interested in Internet cash than victory.

Haag said he wants to prove the naysayers wrong by winning a championship this year, and after a dizzying round of OpTic roster changes, he will get his chance when Activision and Major League Gaming host a \$1 million event in March.

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United Airlines says its on-time performance fell significantly in storm-plagued January and its passenger traffic decreased.



Commuters from the Metra BNSF train arrive at Union Station in January. Passengers said the train was delayed 30 minutes. JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

## Metra chief on defense

### Transit agency was as prepared as possible, executive director says

#### Chicago Tribune

Metra's new chief officer went before state lawmakers Monday, promising at the outset that everything possible would be done to prevent a repeat of last month's service collapse and poor communication with riders.

But Executive Director Don Orseno spent much of the next two hours defending Metra's performance rather than offering ideas to improve service.

"There's a perception out there that Metra was not prepared, and I can assure you that was the furthest thing from the truth," Orseno told the Illinois House Mass Transit Committee in defense of widespread criticism about delayed and canceled trains during an early January snowstorm.

Orseno also told committee members that

problems fueled by the polar vortex were largely unavoidable, in part because of aging equipment, and that Metra had done better than the South Shore Line and commuter lines in New York.

"Mr. Orseno, I don't give a damn about Indiana or New York. None of our people rode those systems," said committee chairman Rep. Al Riley (D-Olympia Fields), cutting Orseno off in mid-sentence.

At the height of the storm Jan. 6, Metra dramatically slashed service. Ridership that day was only about one-third of normal weekday ridership. Yet of the diminished service offered, only 30 percent of trains operated on time, according to Metra data released at the hearing.

Orseno said Metra is aiming for future on-time performance of at least 95 percent systemwide. So far this year, about 85 percent of Metra service has been on time, averaged over the 11 commuter rail lines.

Orseno kicked off his testimony by at-

#### WHAT ABOUT THE 'L'?

The CTA, although a different type of transit rail operation, suffered nowhere near the degree of stuck switches and other frozen equipment as Metra during the polar vortex.

tributing most of Metra's problems to an equipment funding shortfall that is projected at \$9.7 billion over the next 10 years. He also offered a list of things Metra will not be able to accomplish until substantial repairs are made, such as better service options for reverse-commuters and line extensions to outlying areas.

Orseno, a 30-year Metra veteran, was chief operating officer before being named interim executive director last summer after the forced resignation of Alex Clifford, who came from California with no railroad experience. The Metra board voted last month to appoint Orseno executive director and CEO.

## Steep price tag for proposed weed rules

#### Chicago Tribune

Illinois regulators have come out with proposed requirements for opening medical marijuana grow centers and dispensaries—and they come with a steep price tag that advocates say could be costly for consumers.

For dispensaries to sell the pot, state officials proposed a \$5,000 nonrefundable application fee, proof of \$400,000 in assets, a \$30,000 permit fee and a yearly permit renewal fee of \$25,000.

For cultivation centers, the Department of Agriculture proposed a \$25,000 nonrefundable application fee, \$250,000 in liquid assets, payment of \$200,000 upon approval of a permit and a renewal fee of \$100,000.

Regulators said they welcomed public comment on the proposed rules.

Input on the dispensary rules can be emailed to [FPR.MedicalCannabis@illinois.gov](mailto:FPR.MedicalCannabis@illinois.gov). For the taxation rules, email [Rev.MCPP@illinois.gov](mailto:Rev.MCPP@illinois.gov), and for cultivation center rules, email [AGR.MedicalCannabis@illinois.gov](mailto:AGR.MedicalCannabis@illinois.gov).

#### EXPRESS LINES

■ Valerie Jarrett, one of the few Chicagoans who has remained with President Obama's administration for a second term, acknowledged her personal fondness for the city on Monday, but said it will be entirely up to the president and first lady to decide where his presidential library will go.

■ Raghuvir Nayak, a longtime fundraiser for former Gov. Rod Blagojevich who was at the center of the illegal sale of a U.S. Senate seat, was sentenced Monday to two years in prison for paying bribes to doctors to send patients to surgery centers he owns.

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Marius the giraffe at Copenhagen Zoo on Friday. The zoo went ahead with a plan to shoot the giraffe Sunday. **REUTERS**

## Zoo staff threatened after giraffe killing

Copenhagen Zoo's scientific director and other staff have received death threats after a healthy giraffe was killed to avoid inbreeding among the long-necked beasts there, the zoo said Monday.

But director Bengt Holst said it was the right decision and he would be ready to do the same with another animal if needed.

The death of Marius, an 18-month-old male shot Sunday and then dissected in front of crowds at the zoo, has created a uproar among animal lovers in Denmark and abroad.

"I got direct threats against the zoo, me and my family," Holst said. One caller who telephoned in the middle of the night told him that he and his family deserved to die.

A zoo spokesman said other staffers had also been threatened but gave no further details.

Copenhagen Zoo's giraffes are part of an international breeding program that aims to maintain a healthy giraffe population in European zoos by ensuring that only unrelated

giraffes breed.

Marius was killed despite the pleas of thousands who signed online petitions to save him.

After an autopsy, some meat from Marius's carcass was fed to other zoo animals and some was sent to research projects in Denmark and abroad for study.

Camilla Bergvall, vice chairwoman of Animal Rights Sweden, said it was common for zoos to kill healthy animals because they were not suitable for breeding, the zoo lacked room or there was little public interest in them.

"Zoos have to think about their revenues," she said. "It is important to understand that this is not just about Marius. It happens quite often that healthy animals are killed."

Bergvall said keeping species in zoos caused the individual animals to suffer. Breeding animals for captivity created the limited gene pool problem that led to Marius's death.

"The best thing is not to breed animals for people to look at," she said.

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### Cockfighting ring busted in New York

Nine people were arrested and some 3,000 fighting roosters and hens rescued when New York authorities busted a cockfighting ring they said was one of the biggest ever uncovered in the United States.

### North Korea rescinds invitation to U.S.

The White House said Monday it was "deeply disappointed" by North Korea's decision to rescind an invitation to U.S. envoy Robert King to visit Pyongyang to discuss the release of imprisoned U.S. missionary Kenneth Bae.

### Health care mandate delayed again

The Obama administration on Monday again delayed a contentious health care law requirement that requires all but the smallest employers to provide coverage to full-time workers, this time by giving medium-sized businesses another year to comply.

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# sports



Michael Sam  
US PRESSWIRE FILE

## ATH-TWEETS

Potential NFL draft pick Michael Sam is receiving waves of public support on Twitter after announcing Sunday that he is gay.

### BEARS TIGHT END MARTELLIUS BENNETT @MartySaurusRex

One day it won't be such a huge ordeal to state who you are as a person, that day will reveal true progression. Cheers to Day 1.

### VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN @VP

Thank you to @MikeSamFootball & all of the players, @mizzoufootball & coaches at @mizzou – your courage is an inspiration to all of us. –VP



### OPENLY GAY NBA FREE AGENT JASON COLLINS @jasoncollins34

I can't wait to cheer for whatever lucky team that drafts @mikesamfootball. Personally I hope he goes to my favorite team. The @Colts



### FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA @FLOTUS

You're an inspiration to all of us, @MikeSamFootball. We couldn't be prouder of your courage both on and off the field. -mo

# BUSTING THROUGH



**Matt Lindner**  
✉ redeyesports@tribune.com  
✖ @MattLindner

to be true to yourself regardless of whether you're a professional accountant or a professional athlete.

But now is the time for the Michael Sams of the world to stand up and be proud of who they are in public.

Sam, in case you missed it, went from an NFL draft prospect unknown to the masses to a cultural icon overnight simply by being true to himself.

Sam, on the verge of the greatest payday of his young life, became the latest and perhaps highest-profile athlete to come out of the closet and into the public spotlight Sunday in interviews with ESPN and The New York Times.

There will come a day when an announcement like this isn't news.

Unfortunately, that day is not here yet. If he makes an NFL roster—and as the reigning SEC defensive player of the year, that appears certain—Sam will become the first openly gay

## Gay NFL prospect's courage an important step forward

The fact that an athlete coming out of the closet on the cusp of one of the biggest moments of his life is a major news story in 2014 is equal parts astonishing and shameful.

We should have evolved to the point where it's all right

player in the history of the NFL and only the second in America's four major pro sports. Sam is the first to do so at the beginning of his career, however. The other, NBA player Jason Collins, remains a free agent who hasn't played since coming out last year.

Sam's decision is commendable for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact he may have cost himself a significant amount of money.

While no front office will say it publicly, Sam's decision to open up about his sexuality could be viewed as a distraction by teams who may decide they don't want to deal with the locker room and public relations issues that may come with being the first team to employ an openly gay player. The macho culture of pro sports remains such that the six-letter F-word remains part of the vocabulary of many locker rooms.

That much was made evident in a piece on **SI.com** late Sunday, wherein its writers surveyed anonymous NFL executives and coaches about Sam's decision.

"I don't think football is ready for it just yet," an NFL player personnel assistant told **SI**. "In the coming decade or two, it's going to be acceptable, but at this point in time it's still a man's man game. To call somebody a [gay slur] is still so commonplace. It'd chemically imbalance an NFL locker room and meeting room."

A "man's man" game? It's a quote so Neanderthal and wrong that it boggles the mind

that people still say things like that. Sam's sexuality didn't prevent him from notching 11½ sacks this season in college football's best conference. It didn't make him any less of a man, either.

There are signs that attitudes like the one expressed by the NFL personnel assistant may be changing, however. While the public just learned of Sam's sexuality, he actually came out to his Missouri teammates in August. Here's how Sam recalled their reaction to **The Times**: "I looked in their eyes, and they just started shaking their heads—like, finally, he came out," he said.

In other words, his teammates knew long before he told them, and they didn't care. Not only that, but they kept it a secret from the outside world. It wasn't their place to out him.

Not to trivialize Collins and others before Sam's decision to come out, but his announcement will have bigger societal ramifications than almost all of them combined.

Young closeted athletes afraid of being true to themselves now have a role model soon to be on an NFL roster showing them there's nothing to be afraid of. It's a decision that could save lives and change attitudes while ushering in a broader cultural shift in locker rooms.

Someday, on a day not that far in the future, it won't matter if you're gay, so long as you can play.

MATT LINDNER IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



## Bears GM: 'Tremendous respect' for Sam

**Chicago Tribune**

Bears general manager Phil Emery on Monday expressed respect for Michael Sam and vowed to evaluate him on his football ability.

Sam, an NFL prospect and the reigning SEC defensive player of the year, said Sunday that he is gay.

"Michael stated with great poise and confidence who he is as a person and football player, and I have tremendous respect for him in the way he conveyed his thoughts and the courage it took to state them publicly," Emery said in an emailed statement.

"Each and every player in the NFL is a unique individual, as we all are in life. We all ultimately gain respect in our jobs by how well we perform at our chosen profession and if the level in which we perform adds positively to the collective goal of success."

Sam played defensive end at Missouri, but at 6-foot-1, 260 pounds, he projects as an outside linebacker in a 3-4 defense. The Bears are planning to continue with their 4-3 base front, which likely makes Sam a better fit for another team.

"Michael stated this and I agree with his thoughts. It is about his skill set as a football player to add positively to a team's goals and that's how he will be evaluated," Emery said.



### SUPER BOWL MVP KURT WARNER

I appreciate the courage of @michaelksamfootball, now I pray the NFL world reflects that same courage & treats him like the athlete he is!

### OPENLY GAY MLS PLAYER ROBBIE ROGERS

Very happy for Michael Sam. His courage will inspire millions to live their truth.

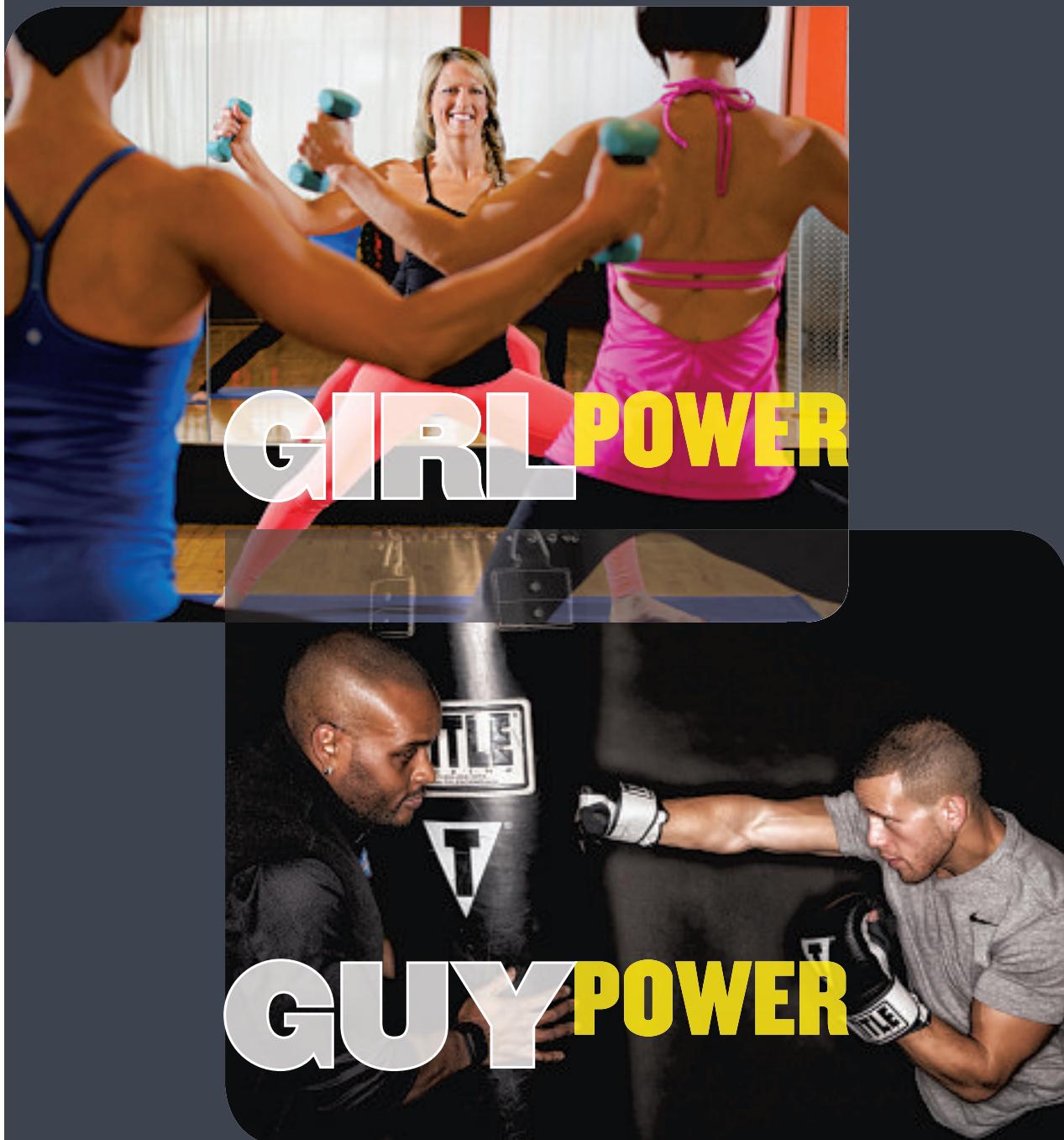
### HALL OF FAMER DEION SANDERS

I applaud Missouri DE @MichaelSamfootball for his bravery & honesty about who he is. I pray he gets a opportunity 2 play the game he loves! Michael Sam isn't the 1st gay player in the NFL although he is the 1st 2 come out. #realtalk Let's show him love like a family member. Truth



### SUPER BOWL MVP MALCOLM SMITH

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**MMM, GOLD**

Our panelists have some interesting ideas for what they would do with a gold medal. And one of them seems hungry.



Leonor Vivanco  
@leonorvivanco  
RedEye reporter



Scott Balohan  
@scottbalohan  
RedEye contributor



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1	What would you do if you won an Olympic gold medal?	I would wear my medal every day, get an Olympic rings tattoo and adopt "We Are the Champions" as my theme song.	Eat a whole pizza.	Record a diss record about Usain Bolt, Tupac-style.	Immediately turn around and sell it for a better hotel room in Sochi.	Party with Johnny Weir!
2	How can Olympics officials sell more tickets to the events in Sochi?	They should offer a front-row seat to the action for anyone brave enough to use the dangerous face water.	But one get one TP.	Give away Netflix and Hulu passwords with each admission.	2-for-1 tickets for gay couples.	Free snow cone with every ticket!
3	Give snowboarding slopestyle gold medalist Jamie Anderson a nickname.	The Zen Master. Sorry, Phil Jackson.	Slopey Firsts.	Slope-ra Winfrey.	Jamie "Shaun White is a b—" Anderson.	Mrs. Stick Figure. (Please don't tell her I like her.)
4	What's the first thing the Bulls will do now that they're back from their road trip?	Make the game entertaining and keep dropping F-bombs like Joakim Noah did.	Check to see if the milk expired.	Put out a missing persons report for Boozer's defense.	Take off their snow boots and wear the Jordans they've been storing. #5neakerheadProblems	Unpack and go through all the newspapers they missed.
5	If it were up to you, the Bears would __ Julius Peppers.	Dump him. Pick up Michael Bennett so he can play on the same team as his brother Martellus.	Instagram	rethink ordering another round of	build a hot tub time machine for	tickles



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# COLD RUSH

Each day during the Sochi Olympics, we'll share what's giving us chills—good or bad. TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

## Sochi's odd couple

Even after a long flight to Russia, Patrick Sharp is never too tired to take a shot at a teammate. "The only negative I can say is that I'm rooming with [Jonathan] Toews for the next two weeks," the Blackhawks and Team USA winger said with a smile after practice Monday. "One-on-one with him is going to be tough for 12 days."

## Shredded

Snowboarders are known as a low-key group—unless you mess with their halfpipe. Shaun White called his practice at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park "frustrating," and U.S. teammate Danny Davis said it was a "battle." American and Olympic gold medalist Hannah Teter called the facility a "junk show" and advocated a postponement until improvements are made. Ouch, Russia.



Shaun White  
GETTY IMAGES

## Thanks, social media!

Twitter has spoken and Katie Uhlaender is listening.

The American skeleton rider announced Monday that she will wear a dramatic eagle-themed helmet when she competes this week. The three-time Olympian let the public choose between two helmet designs via Twitter vote over the weekend, and was stunned by the response.

"I didn't realize it was going to go that crazy," she said.



Julia Mancuso  
GETTY IMAGES

## She's got spirit

Monday's Olympic Spirit Award (not a real thing) goes to Julia Mancuso. The American skier might be the most thrilled anyone has ever been after winning a bronze medal (she took third in the super combined). It's her fourth career Olympic medal in Alpine skiing; no other American woman has more than two.

If everyone reacted to winning medal like she did, the world would be in a much better mood. The look on her face says it all.

## Yawn—bring on Canada

The U.S. women's hockey team demolished Switzerland 9-0 on Monday, and the Americans are 2-0 heading into Wednesday's showdown with rival Canada. Against the Swiss, the U.S. set an Olympic record with three goals in a 55-second span in the first period.

"We need to play up to our speed all the time," said Jocelyne Lamoureux, who had two assists. "We have Canada on Wednesday, and we're going to have to maintain that speed the entire game."

## THE FINISH LINE

» Northwestern quarterback recruit Clayton Thorson breaks leg

» DePaul leading scorer Cleveland Melvin no longer enrolled at the school

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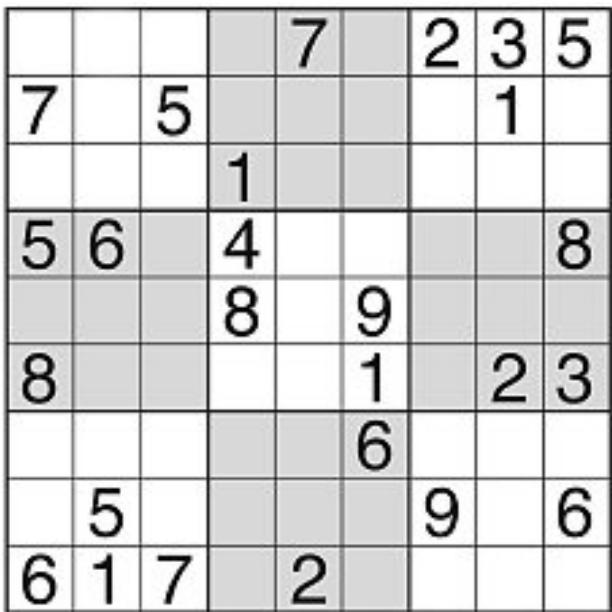
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



## MONDAY'S SOLUTIONS

J	I	G		O	M	A	H	A	A	R	M	S
A	B	U	T	C	U	R	E	S	L	U	A	U
B	I	L	E	C	L	E	A	T	C	I	T	E
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H	O	M	E	L	Y	S	H	I	F	T	I	N
A	P	A	R	T	W	A	I	S	T	C	U	R
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I	R	E	D	I	D	N	T	C	O	N	G	A
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## TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

**1972:** McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. and Life magazine canceled plans to publish what had turned out to be a fake autobiography of reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes.

**1990:** South African black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in prison.

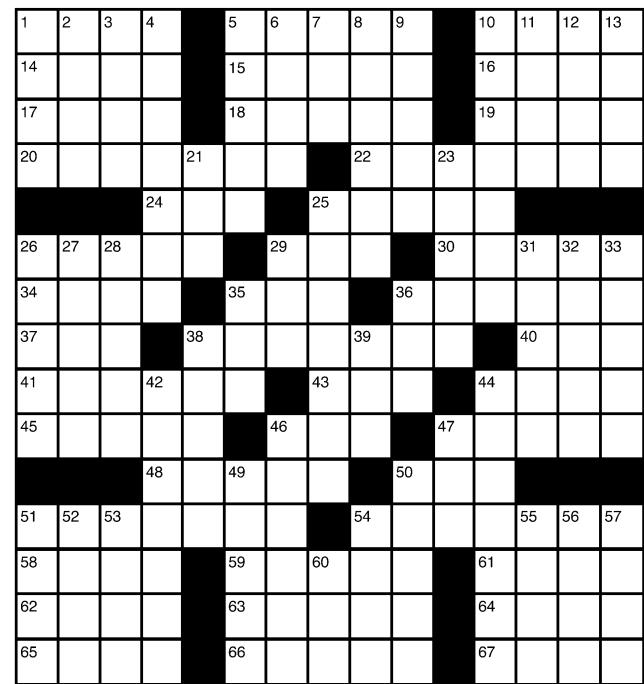
**2006:** Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot and wounded Harry Whittington, a companion during a weekend quail-hunting trip in Texas.

## ACROSS

1 Wild feline  
5 Scrub  
10 Doing nothing  
14 Sitting upon  
15 On the \_\_; free to the customer  
16 Like expensive hamburger  
17 Nag  
18 Mexican Indian  
19 Come to shore  
20 Physical \_\_; rehab activity  
22 Loses the ball  
24 Afternoon hour  
25 One doing a civic duty  
26 Meat sauce  
29 Coolidge, to friends  
30 Small ducks  
34 Unclothed  
35 Participated in a race  
36 Interfere  
37 Conjunction  
38 Pathetic  
40 God's sixth-day creation  
41 Worked the soil  
43 Actor Danson  
44 Chauffeured car  
45 Move furtively  
46 Weep  
47 Stringed instrument  
48 Revolving part in a machine  
50 Baby bear  
51 Doctor in the operating room  
54 Bad mark for a student  
58 \_\_ or false; type of test  
59 Slugger Hank  
61 Acting part  
62 Grows gray  
63 Daringfeat  
64 Competent  
65 Take a break  
66 Makes gentle  
67 Not as much

## DOWN

1 Treaty  
2 Neighbor of Nevada  
3 Oliver's request  
4 \_\_ of; condone  
5 In \_\_; robust  
6 Warm & comfy  
7 Umpire's cry  
8 Serving a purpose



9 Happen again  
10 Badly raised  
11 Great buy  
12 Path  
13 Split \_\_; hair problem  
21 \_\_ Given Sunday"; Al  
23 Driver's inn  
25 Maintenance man  
26 Pesky insects  
27 Confrontation  
28 Confuse

29 Lynx or lion  
31 Fess up  
32 Peruvian pack animal  
33 Mexican mister  
35 Get \_\_ of; shed  
36 Soft wet dirt  
38 Tea variety  
39 Jan's follower  
42 Biggest  
44 Broad-minded  
46 Hyundai model  
47 Total

49 Browned bread  
50 Pennies  
51 Night twinkler  
52 Egg on  
53 Regrets  
54 Finished  
55 After-bath wear  
56 Misfortunes  
57 Palmer's pegs  
60 Bacardi product



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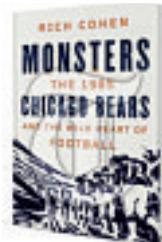
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# whoville

1 Jimmy = **A twinkle in the eye**

2 Jimmys = **Side-mouth smirk**

3 Jimmys = **Uncontrollable giggles**

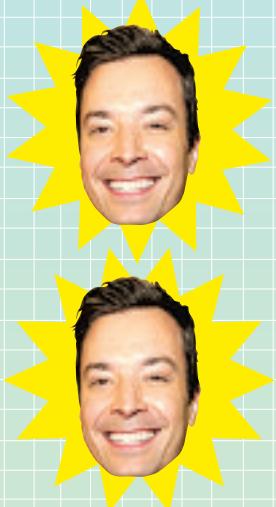
4 Jimmys = **On the floor**

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Jimmy Fallon may be between shows at the moment, but do you think this goofy guy is on vacation? Hah! That'd be like Jimmy Fallon not being hilarious. The J-man has been hard at work finalizing the first week of guests on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," [thr.com](http://thr.com) reports. So how excited are we (and Jimmy) about the starting lineup? Well, let's ask him! [DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM](mailto:DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM) | [@REDEYEDANA](http://REDEYEDANA)

## IDIOT BOYFRIEND

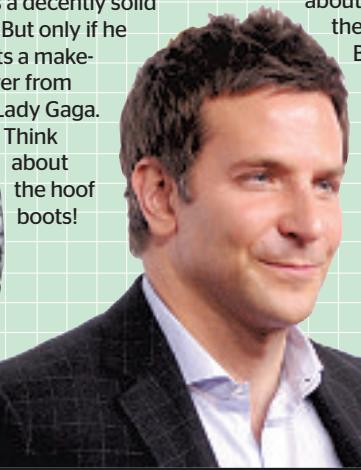
Ready, set, host! Jimmy Fallon's friends are all invited



FEB. 17

### Guest Will Smith and musical guest U2

This number will improve only if Will a) announces he's actually going to be in "Independence Day 2," b) Jimmy convinces Will to fight aliens with Nerf guns or c) Will/Jimmy shoot Bono with a Nerf gun. We'll take any of them.



FEB. 18

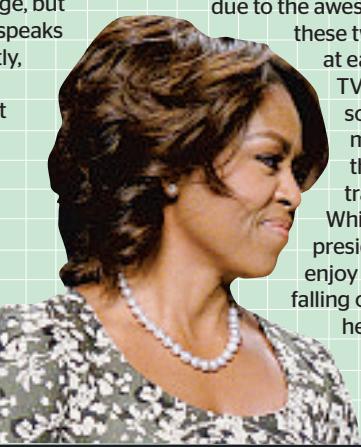
### Guests Jerry Seinfeld and Kristen Wiig, and musical guest Lady Gaga

Kinda surprised that Kristen is Jimmy's first "SNL" guest, but Seinfeld is a decently solid score. But only if he gets a makeover from Lady Gaga. Think about the hoof boots!

FEB. 19

### Guest Bradley Cooper and musical guest Tim McGraw

MAYBE, just maybe, Jimmy will decide to conduct this entire episode in French. We don't know about Tim McGraw's grasp of the language, but Bradley speaks it fluently, and OH BOY is it sexy.



FEB. 20

### Guests first lady Michelle Obama and Will Ferrell, and musical guest Arcade Fire

It's impossible that Michelle and Will have never met, but it's highly likely that the world will implode due to the awesomeness of these two poking fun at each other on TV. Alternate awesomeness: Jimmy makes a video of the pair booby-trapping the White House. The president does not enjoy water balloons falling on him, or so we hear.

FEB. 21

### Guest Justin Timberlake

OK, this actually deserves 12 Jimmys. Jimmy saved his ace for the last move of the week—after the shenanigans these two pulled on "Late Night," they just have to take things to a new level now that Jimmy's hit the big time.



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# red hot

## THE QUOTE

"I don't think urban music is getting more gay-friendly because if that was the case, Frank Ocean would be on a lot more songs."

—T-Pain, to VladTV. He added that he knows rappers who won't work with Frank Ocean because of his sexual identity.



## Oh no, Mango!

Former "SNL" star Chris Kattan was arrested Monday morning in L.A. and charged with driving under the influence, CNN reports. Following is a list of the best things Chris Kattan has ever done.

- The "You guys want some cockies?" line in "Corky Romano"
- The "SNL" episode where Garth Brooks falls in love with Mango
- His impersonation of Antonio Banderas
- The "SNL" episode where Katie Holmes falls in love with Mr. Peepers
- Mr. Peepers in general



Channing Tatum (left) and Joe Manganiello

# Strippin' and trippin'

Yes, Channing Tatum knows you were kinda bummed out by "Magic Mike." But that's why "Magic Mike 2" is happening. "It will be a road-trip movie, and it will essentially be the movie that everyone thought the first one was going to be: crazy and fun and less slice-of-life and less drama," Tatum told [thr.com](#), adding that he's begun work on the script. Just don't trim out the Joe Manganiello gold thong stuff, please.

## Band aid

Welp, can't say we saw this one coming. Seth Meyers revealed his house band lineup for "Late Night with Seth Meyers" on Monday via [Twitpic](#)... and it's being led by none other than "SNL" cohort Fred Armisen. [Vulture.com](#) reports that Armisen will run the band even while he's off shooting "Portlandia," which ought to be a pretty entertaining telecommute.

## THE DIGIT

# 15.8 MILLION

That's how many people watched "The Walking Dead" midseason premiere Sunday night, AMC announced Monday. It was the top-rated show among adults 18-49, even beating out the Winter Olympics.



## Blast from the future

We're getting ever closer to reading the fruits of Lena Dunham's \$3.7 million book deal. The "Girls" creator Instagrammed the first photo of the cover for "Not That Kind of Girl," which is set for an Oct. 7 release. The suuuuper '60s/70s font and color scheme seem like an homage to Dunham's old-school feminist writer idols, and the subtitle, "A young woman tells you what she's learned," has us thinking Lena still isn't taking herself too seriously.

## X doesn't mark the spot

Simon says see ya later! Fox announced Sunday that it was canceling the American version of "The X Factor" after creator Simon Cowell decided to return to the British version for the upcoming season. The [New York Times](#) reports. The show lasted a grand total of three seasons. Somewhere, Christina Aguilera is hitting a button, spinning around in a chair and grinning wildly.